THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) As per the existing policy, the Central Government extends price support to paddy and wheat through the Government agencies (Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies). All foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centers is bought by the procuring agencies. The farmers have the option to sell their paddy/wheat either to FCI/State Agencies at Minimum Support Price, or to the private parties, as is advantageous to them. Foodgrains procured by the FCI/State Governments and their agencies are distributed through State Governments under Targetted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes.

In Rabi Marketing Season 2008-09, 226.82 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured. 284.29 lakh tonnes of rice was procured in Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08.

The Government has also decided to distribute upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat under Open Market Sales Scheme (D) in order to check inflationary trend in food economy.

Import and procurement of foodgrains

829. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains imported during last five years, foodgrain-wise and year-wise break-up;

(b) the price to import the above quantum of foodgrains, foodgrain-wise and year-wise break-up;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains produced during last five years, foodgrain-wise and year-wise break-up; and

(d) the quantum of foodgrains procured by Government during the same period from domestic market, foodgrain-wise and year-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The quantum of foodgrains imported and the value of foodgrains imported during last five years are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The quantum of foodgrains produced during last five years is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) The quantum of foodgrain procured by Government during last five years is given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

The quantum of foodgrains imported during last five years and its value

Rice:-

Sl.No.	Year	Qty. (in MTs)	Value (in lakh)
1.	2003-04	54	27.11
2.	2004-05	Nil	Nil
3.	2005-06	23	3.35
4.	2006-07	161	40.64
5.	2007-08	146	42.22

Wheat:-

Sl.No.	Year	Qty. (in MTs)	Value (in lakh)
1.	2003-04	457	24.86
2.	2004-05	222	11.20
3.	2005-06	Nil	Nil
4.	2006-07	6079555	585049.38
5.	2007-08	1793209	265751.39

Cereals:-

Sl.No.	Year	Qty. (in MTs)	Value (in lakh)
1.	2003-04	1530	186.96
2.	2004-05	6621	656.20
3.	2005-06	26633	2864.69
4.	2006-07	7964	1172.60
5.	2007-08	10352	1927.39

Pulses:-

Sl.No.	Year	Qty. (in MTs)	Value (in lakh)
1.	2003-04	1723328	228486.74
2.	2004-05	1296460	171864.44
3.	2005-06	1628238	234689.95
4.	2006-07	2270967	389191.11
5.	2007-08	2791095	527801.60

SOURCE : DGCI&S Kolkata

Statement-II

Production of foodgrains during last five years

(in millions tons)

Sl.No.	Year	Rice	Wheat	Cereals	Pulses	Coarse Grains
1.	2003-04	88.53	72.15	198.28	14.91	37.60
2.	2004-05	83.13	68.64	185.23	13.13	33.46
3.	2005-06	91.79	69.35	195.20	13.39	34.06
4.	2006-07	93.35	75.81	203.08	14.20	33.92
5.	2007-08	96.43	78.40	215.56	15.11	40.73

SOURCE : Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

Statement-III

Procurement by Government for Central Pool Marketing Year-wise

Sl.No.	Marketing Season	Wheat (April - March)	Rice (Oct - Sept)	Kharif Coarse Grains
1.	2003-04	158.01	228.28	6.51
2.	2004-05	167.96	246.83	8.27
3.	2005-06	147.85	276.56	11.44
4.	2006-07	92.26	251.07	Neg
5.	2007-08	111.28	284.29*	2.03

* position as on 3.10.2008

Price of sugar

†830. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference between the prices of sugar in domestic market of the country and those in the international market;

(b) if so, the average ex-factory price in the domestic market in the month of July, August and September, 2008 along with the same in international market during the said period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the consumer price of sugar has increased in the said months in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the said prices and the quantity of sugar exported during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The ex-factory prices of sugar in major States during the months of July, August and September, 2008 were in the range of Rs. 1300-1640 per quintal, Rs.1550-1930 per quintal and Rs. 1500-1800 per quintal, respectively whereas the international prices of white sugar (London Daily Price - ex European Port Free-on-Board) were in the range of US$ 351-412.50 PMT, US $ 378.80-414.50 PMT and US $ 365.50-399.30 PMT, respectively.

(c) and (d) The retail prices of sugar in the four metro cities of the country which were in the range of Rs.16-19 per kg. during the month of July, 2008 increased to Rs. 17-22 per kg. in the months of August and September, 2008. As per information gathered from trade circles, a quantity of 6.34 lakh tonnes of sugar was exported during this three month period.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.